

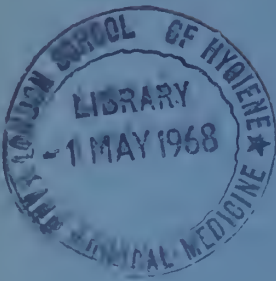
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The Medical Officer of Health's
ANNUAL REPORT
for
Easry Rural District
1954.

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THE MEDICAL OFFICER OF HEALTH'S

ANNUAL REPORT

for

EASTRY RURAL DISTRICT

for - 1954

In Office 1955-56

Chairman of the Council:	G. Murray Norton, Esq., J.P.
Chairman of the Public Health Committee:	Councillor A.E. Markwick.
Clerk to the Council:	Chas. Evans, Esq., M.B.E.
Senior Sanitary Inspector:	W.H. Sayers, C.R.S.I., M.S.I.A.
Surveyor:	R.J. Meacher, A.I.A.A., M.R.S.I.

Area of the District	-	54,276 acres.
Population Mid 1955	-	23,800
Product of 1d Rate	-	£440

To the Chairman and Members of Eastry
Rural District Council

- - - - -

Sirs,

The Report here presented covers the year 1954 and is presented for your area only and not as in the last few years as a combined report. With it is to be read the report of the Senior Sanitary Inspector which with such commendable expedition he presents to you in the early months of the year. I thank Mr. Sayers for his sound service and co-operation, and I would also like to express my appreciation of the goodwill and help from other officers of the council.

Your obedient Servant,

Malcolm S. HARVEY, M.B., Ch.B., D.P.H.

Medical Officer of Health.

The following are the vital statistics for 1954:-

Live Births:	Male	-	188	(Illegitimate	-	8)
	Female	-	185	(Illegitimate	-	6)
	<u>Total</u>	-	373	(Total	-	14)
Stillbirths:	-	9	Male	-	6	Female - 3
						(All Legitimate)
Infant Deaths under 4 weeks:	-	5	Male	-	2	Female - 3
Infant Deaths 4 weeks - 1 year:	-	3	Male	-		Female - 3
Total Infant Deaths:	-	8				
All Deaths:	Male:	-	182			
	Female:	-	135			
	<u>Total:</u>	-	317			
Comparability Factors:	Births:	1.18	Deaths:	0.95		
Population (Mid 1955)	-	23,800				

VITAL RATES.

Birth Rate (crude)	-	15.67	per 1,000 population.
Corrected Birth Rate	-	18.49	" " "
Birth Rate England & Wales	-	15.2	" " "
Death Rate (crude)	-	13.31	" " "
Corrected Death Rate	-	12.64	" " "
Death Rate England & Wales	-	11.3	" " "
Infant Mortality Rate	-	21.4	" " births.
Infant Mortality Rate England & Wales	-	25.5	" " "
Peri-Natal Mortality Rate	-	39.25	" " Total births.
(Neo-Natal Deaths and Stillbirths per 1,000 births)			
Peri-Natal Mortality Rate for East Kent United District	-	41.25	per 1,000 total births.

The birth rate has improved on the 1953 figures of 14.71 crude and 17.35 corrected, while the death rate shows a decimal level improvement.

Our population is subject to slight fluctuations due to the parish of Minster but while down 660 on the 1953 level it remains above the 1951 census level.

The following table shows the causes of deaths during the year and the corresponding figures for 1953. There is no significant variation except in deaths from tuberculosis which unfortunately showed an increase.

Causes of Death - Eastrv Rural District

	<u>1954</u>	<u>1953</u>
Tuberculosis, Respiratory.	6	2
" Other.	1	-
All Infectious and Parasitic Diseases.	1	-
Malignant Neoplasms. Stomach.	8	7
" " Lungs & Bronchus.	9	9
" " Breast.	6	6
" " Uterus.	2	6
Other Malignant & Lymphatic Neoplasms.	29	28
Leukaemia and Aleukaemia.	-	2
Diabetes.	4	1
Vascular Lesions of Nervous System.	43	40
Coronary Disease. Angina.	29	29
Hypertension with Heart Disease.	4	8
Other Heart Diseases.	75	76
Other Circulatory Diseases.	20	12
Influenza.	3	5
Pneumonia.	8	7
Bronchitis.	15	19
Other Diseases of Respiratory System.	2	5
Ulcers of Stomach and Duodenum.	6	1
Gastritis, Enteritis and Diarrhoea.	-	2
Nephritis and Nephrosis.	3	2
Hyperplasia of Prostrate.	4	2
Pregnancy, Childbirth, Abortion.	-	-
Congenital Malformation.	4	6
Other defined and Ill defined Diseases.	23	31
Motor Vehicle Accidents.	2	3
All other Accidents.	9	8
Suicide:	1	3
Homicide or War Operations.	-	-
Total	182	181
Total	135	139
<u>Total:</u>	<u>317</u>	<u>320</u>

Infant Deaths:

	Under 24 hours:	1 day - 4 weeks:	4 weeks - 1 year:	Total:
Asphyxia Neonatorum. Atelectasis (Prematurity). Congenital Abnormality. Acute Broncho-Pneumonia.	2 1 1 -	- - 2 -	- - 1 1	2 1 4 1
Total:	4	2	2	8

Infectious Diseases:

The following tabulations show the incidence and age distribution of cases during 1954:-

	Quarters of Year				By Age Groups:							Totals:	
	1st	2nd	3rd	4th	0-4	5-9	10-14	15+	65+	1954	1953		
Scarlet Fever.	11	4	3	-	4	10	2	2	-	18	24		
Measles.	-	-	-	1	1	-	-	-	-	1	141		
Whooping Cough.	13	-	15	57	43	36	1	5	-	85	57		
Pneumonia.	7	3	-	2	-	3	-	7	2	12	19		
Acute Poliomyelitis.	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	1		
Puerperal Pyrexia.	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	2		
Erysipelas.	-	1	-	1	-	1	-	1	-	2	2		
Acute Encephalitis. (Infective)	1	-	-	-	1	-	-	-	-	1	-		
Tuberculosis (Respiratory).											21		
Tuberculosis (Other Forms).											2		
											15		

Tuberculosis detail:

Age distribution of notifications of all forms of tuberculosis:-

Under 15	Male	-	1	Female	-	2
15 - 25	"	"	3	"	"	6
25 - 45	"	"	2	"	"	3
Over 45	"	"	5	"	"	1

Totals:	Male	-	11	Female	-	12	Total	-	23
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Respiratory	Male	-	11	Female	-	10	Total	-	21
Other Forms	"	-	-	"	-	2	Total	-	2

Number on T.B. Register at 31/12/54.

Respiratory	Male	-	109	Female	-	105
Other Forms	"	-	22	"	-	31

Figures for 1953.

Respiratory	"	-	105	"	-	96
Other Forms	"	-	23	"	-	31

The slight increase in local notifications of tuberculosis has caused special attention to be paid to identification and prevention. This will probably produce a further increase in notifications and will bring more cases under earlier treatment.

Immunisation and Vaccination.

The following figures have been supplied by the County Medical Officer of Health and concern this district only.

Children Immunized against Diphtheria during 1954:-

Year of Birth:	1954	1953	1952	1951	1950	1949	1948	1947	1946	1945	1944	1943	1942	1941	1940	Total
Primary Inoculations:	29	175	14	5	3	8	24	7	1	5	6	-	-	-	-	277
Re-inforcing Inoculations					14	102	23	4	6	3	11	14	3	3	2	185

Children Vaccinated against Smallpox during 1954:-

Year of Birth	1954	1953	1952	1951	1950	1949	1948	1947	1946	1945	1944	1943	1942	1941	1940	Be-fore 1940	Total
Primary Vaccination.	103	68	1	1	1	-	-	1	-	-	-	-	1	-	-	5	181
Re-Vaccination.	-	-	-	-	-	-	1	1	-	1	2	-	-	-	1	17	23

As the number of births in 1954 was 373 these figures indicate that the activity in vaccinating infants is not maintaining a satisfactory level of protection in the child population.

The following tabulation shows the number of children under age 15 on 31/12/54 who had completed a course of immunization since 1/1/1940.

Year of Birth.	1940	1941	1942	1943	1944	1945	1946	1947	1948	1949	1950	1951	1952	1953	1954	Total
Last complete course of injections (whether primary or booster) 1950-1954	93	98	128	146	155	210	223	250	207	220	243	230	231	191	29	2654
1949 or earlier	154	122	111	151	80	27	11	18	48	16						738

As the population under 15 is approximately 5,400 this indicates a level of adequate diphtheria protection of under 50%.

While concern is justified at the waning of these levels of protection, and while it is realised that a bit of scaring by posters might improve the situation, but at the expense of some strain on mothers' emotions, the Council would be well advised for the present to leave the work of propaganda and encouragement with the family doctors, the County Council's health visitors, and the various clinic services, although remaining ready to spend money on public health education on such preventive and protective procedures

if/

if the approaches fail. Our duty on the control of infectious disease remains with us, and it is an important one.

Other Diseases.

The progress in public health which followed the development of safe water supplies, sewerage, refuse collection and such essential sanitary services now tends to be taken for granted as part of our environment. The investigation of illness passes all too rapidly from the hands of the family doctor to the hospital or specialist, with the national health service patient impatient so to progress, and the family doctor allowed too little time to contemplate.

A family doctor was puzzled by a recurring illness which affected a family in the district. The household comprised three adults, four children, and a daily domestic help. Three nearby cottages shared a main water supply. The household produced and consumed its own milk, eggs, butter and vegetables, and bread, groceries and meat came from the nearby village. Drainage went to a water-tight cesspool emptied fortnightly. The household pets were one elderly dog and two rabbits.

The illness took the form of periodic attacks of diarrhoea and nausea. It was usual for the family to go down with the illness about the same time, generally speaking all being ill and well again within seven days of the onset of the first case, and illness lasting three days. It all seemed to have followed an illness of the mother in the previous summer. She had gone to the South Coast for a holiday and some days after her return was admitted to hospital with a pyrexial illness, which settled with nursing, and apart from a non specific high titre on serum examination to B. Typhosis, remained undiagnosed.

The whole family and especially the mother had had stool examinations during the attacks, but no pathogenic organisms could be found.

As the attacks had an explosive character, the water supply arrangements were given a special check. Water and milk sampling gave good results. The water supply arrangements gave rise to doubts, however, for there was no main tap supply in the whole house, all taps drawing from a large roof tank, which received the main inlet. This tank was boxed in and lagged with granulated cork. The lid was close fitting, but had a space of two inches between tank top and lid, with the cork lagging reaching to the level of the top of the tank. An overflow pipe of about an inch and a half diameter discharged into the ivy clad eaves. The

edge/

edge of the overflow pipe where it left the tank was clean and rubbed, and at the opposite side of the tank discreetly buried in the cork lagging was a mouse's nest, lined with pieces of the newspaper used to make the lid tight.

The household was advised to boil all drinking water until drinking water taps had been fitted directly off the rising main, on the assumption that the attacks of illness resulted from mouse contamination of the roof tank water co-inciding with use of water for drinking, without a sufficient lapse of time for the chlorination of the supply to take effect on the contamination.

There have been no subsequent attacks of diarrhoea and nausea in the family. "The best laid schemes o' mice and men gang oft aglae".

Moveable Dwellings.

The Public Health Act sees sporadic caravan dwelling as a peripatetic arrangement, to be condoned when it is so and to be controlled if it isn't. There was one case of van dwellers who sought to be permanent and required threat of legal action to move them. Such cases set against the improved living standards of today reveal to our surprise that there are still people who prefer space and squalor in some shed or van in the country rather than crowded shelter in a town dwelling.

Sewage Disposal.

Several cases came to notice of illicit tipping of cesspool contents in chalk pits. By process of exclusion the suspicion fell on private contractors or individuals.

The case for sewerage Woodnesborough was investigated and a Ministry Inspector's enquiry followed.

Some parishes pressed for better pail closet emptying, and one has a sympathetic understanding for their desire for a more frequent night soil removal. The sewerage of some communities leaves others further behind. Improvements which result in new cesspools without soakage arrangements make more demand on cesspool emptying which in turn is a load on transport and labour. Night soil removal is still an important public health measure to prevent helminth infestation.

The River's Board gave notice of probable action on river pollution in due course. This is justifiable for the Stour is a valuable feature of our district.

Slaughterhouses.

Full attention was given to the slaughterhouses in the district by reason of the release of slaughtering control. The Council only licensed four slaughterhouses temporarily with conditions as to rendering fit. With the large slaughterhouse at Canterbury and the developing slaughterhouse at Sandwich there seemed to be no need for many of the old slaughterhouses which had in most cases been taken over for other usage while closed.

Knackers' Yard.

The knackers' yard at Ashley has been complained of at times, but has done much to improve conditions of slaughter and disposal of drainage. A large pig farm has developed next to it.

Mosquitoes.

Complaints of mosquito nuisance directed attention to Sholden, Worth and Sandwich Bay. The Chief Sanitary Inspector's investigation incriminated a fierce biter (*Theobaldia*) and it was decided to seek the advice of Mr. P.G. Shute of the Malaria Research Section of the Medical Council on the problem. Mr. Shute expressed his willingness to visit at the beginning of the 1955 season when a survey could be made.

Housing.

In carrying out the survey under the Housing Repairs & Rents Act the value of past action under the Rural Housing Survey was apparent, both in the information it provided and in showing how action had already made improvements sufficient to lift houses out of the category of unfitness. The Chief Sanitary Inspector's work on development grants showed the scope of the scheme in saving property by improvement. At the end of the year the survey was under way.

For figures on housing work, Factory Act inspection, and general public health supervision you are referred to the Chief Sanitary Inspector's report herewith:+

EASTRY RURAL DISTRICT COUNCIL

- - - - -

ANNUAL REPORT

of the

SENIOR SANITARY INSPECTOR

for the Year

1954.

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To the Chairman and Members of the
Eastry Rural District Council

- - - - -

I have pleasure in presenting a report on the work for which your Sanitary Inspectors have been responsible during the year 1954.

The outstanding features of the year's work have been in connection with Housing and the re-opening of Slaughter-houses, both of which had added considerably to the duties and responsibilities of the Department.

Following modifications of the requirements relating to Improvement Grants and administrative changes whereby local authorities became responsible for the approval of applications, a large number of enquiries were received, details of which are given later in this report. Not only do Improvement Grants provide owners with the means of modernising older houses, but by also offering a positive incentive in the form of a rent which fairly represents the value of a dwelling in today's conditions, should encourage the re-conditioning of many unfit houses which would otherwise be left for ultimate demolition.

The decontrol of Meat and Livestock in July had been expected for some time but in view of the existence of a large modern abattoir at Canterbury the re-opening of several private slaughterhouses was not anticipated. There is no reason why a small private slaughterhouse should not maintain a standard of hygiene equal to that of an abattoir, but experience has shown that to carry out a proper standard of meat inspection in a rural area entails time and expense out of all proportion to the small number of animals that are examined. It is anticipated that when the policy of moderate concentration has been implemented in a few years time, the four small private slaughterhouses licensed by the Council will be closed. In the meantime, the Council have passed a resolution that no more private slaughterhouses will be licensed and the resolution awaits approval by the Ministry of Food.

I should like to express my appreciation of the support and encouragement received from the Chairman and Members of the Council during the year and the continued help and co-operation from the Staff.

W. H. SAYERS,

Senior Sanitary Inspector.

S T A F F

Senior Sanitary Inspector:

W. H. SAYERS.

Cert. R.S.I. & S.I.E.J.B.
Cert. R.S.I. Meat & Food Inspection.
Cert. R.S.I. Smoke Inspector.

Additional Sanitary Inspector.

T. M. WHITE.
(Resigned 31/12/54)

Cert. R.S.I. & S.I.E.J.B.
Cert. R.S.I. Meat & Food Inspection.

Clerk.

MISS E. HAYWARD.

Rodent Operators.

F. U. LAWRENCE.

S. H. SOUTON. (Resigned 3/7/54).

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HOUSING

1. Improvements and Conversions.

The Ministry's revised leaflet on Improvement Grants has been circulated to builders, agents and property owners in the district together with notes that have been prepared giving guidance on the submission of applications. In accordance with the Ministry's wishes, applicants are invited to discuss their proposals in outline before preparing schemes of improvement. It is possible at this stage to indicate the work that would be necessary to meet the twelve statutory requirements, the proportion likely to qualify for a Grant and also give some idea of the maximum rent that is likely to be fixed, although it is made clear that the final decision rests with the District Council. The Surveyor's Department is also consulted at this stage so that the applicant may be informed whether approval under the Building Bye-laws and the Town & Country Planning Acts will be required.

The procedure adopted does involve a very considerable amount of work and over a period of eight months one hundred and two properties were visited at the request of owners with a view to possible Grants. Its value, however, in avoiding needless expense on schemes which have little chance of success is seen in the fact that of thirty-five applications for Grants submitted during the year, one only was refused by the Council. Thirty-three schemes were approved by the Council for works of improvement and one scheme for the conversion of a former school into a dwelling.

The total cost of the Schemes approved was £19,188 of which £14,168 was attributed to works of improvement on which a Grant of 50% would be paid on completion. The balance of £5,020 represents works of ordinary repair and maintenance which were necessary to satisfy the statutory conditions and the whole of which would be paid by the owners concerned.

Six properties in respect of which Grants were approved were for occupation by the applicants and twenty-five were for letting to agricultural workers.

(Contd)

HOUSING

Improvements and Conversions (Contd).

The following is a summary of the major improvements included in schemes approved:-

Provision of bathrooms	33
" " internal water closets	25
" " hot water systems	31
" " drainage	17
" " ventilated foodstores	26
" " fuel stores	17
" " new windows	10
Internal wiring for electricity	7
Remedying of dampness due to inherent defects	12
Addition of extra rooms to meet size of family	6

2. Housing Repairs & Rents Act, 1954.

Part I.

Section 1 of the above Act requires the Council to submit to the Minister proposals for dealing with unfit houses by the 30th August, 1955. The owners of houses which from the Rural Housing Survey are known to be unfit are being invited to submit proposals and at the same time in suitable cases are informed of the assistance available through Improvement Grants.

Part II.

No applications have been received for Certificates of Disrepair.

HOUSING

3. Housing Statistics.

1. Inspection of Dwelling-houses during the year.

- | | |
|---|-----|
| (1) (a) Total number of dwelling-houses inspected for housing defects (under Public Health or Housing Acts) | 157 |
| (b) Number of inspections made for the purpose | 902 |
| (2) (a) Number of dwelling-houses which were inspected and recorded under the Housing (Consolidated) Regulations, 1925 - 1932 ... | 59 |
| (b) Number of inspections made for the purpose | 60 |
| (3) Number of dwelling-houses found to be in any respect unfit for human habitation | 63 |
| (4) Number of dwelling-houses found to be unfit for human habitation and incapable of repair at reasonable expense | 2 |

2. Remedy of defects by informal action.

Number of dwelling-houses in which defects were remedied by informal action	37
--	----

3. Action under Statutory Powers.

(1) Housing Act, 1936, Section 9:-

(a) Number of dwelling-houses in respect of which notices were served requiring repairs	-
---	---

(b) Number of dwelling-houses which were rendered fit after service of formal notices:

- | | |
|--|---|
| (i) By owners | - |
| (ii) By Local Authority in default of owners | - |

(2) Public Health Act, 1936, Section 93:-

(a) Number of dwelling-houses in respect of which notices were served requiring repairs	-
---	---

(b) Number of dwelling-houses in which defects were rendered after service of formal notices:

- | | |
|--|---|
| (i) By owners | - |
| (ii) By Local Authority in default of owners | - |

HOUSING

Action under Statutory Powers (Contd).

(3) Housing Act, 1936, Section 11:-

(a) Number of dwelling-houses in respect of which Demolition Orders were made	-
(b) Number of dwelling-houses demolished ..	2
(c) Number of dwelling-houses closed in pursuance of an Undertaking given by the owners under Section 11	-
(d) Number of dwelling-houses reconditioned and Undertakings cancelled	1

4. Overcrowding.

By arrangement with the Housing Manager all applications for Council Houses are examined as received and visited where overcrowding seems to be likely.

(a)	(i) Number of dwellings overcrowded at the end of the year	10
	(ii) Number of families dwelling therein	17
	(iii) Number of persons dwelling therein ..	87
(b)	Number of new cases of overcrowding reported during the year	5
(c)	(i) Number of cases of overcrowding relieved during the year	5
	(ii) Number of persons concerned in such cases	44
(d)	Particulars of any cases in which dwelling-houses have again become overcrowded after the Local Authority have taken steps for the abatement of overcrowding	NIL
(e)	Any other particulars with respect to overcrowding conditions	-

WATER SUPPLY

The various parishes of the district are supplied by the Mid-Kent Water Company, the Margate Corporation Water Undertaking, Ramsgate Corporation Water Undertaking, Westgate and Birchington Water Company and the Deal Borough Water Undertaking. The supplies are drawn from deep wells in the chalk, the Margate Pumping Station being situated in the Parish of Wingham.

There has been no shortage of water during the year and eighteen samples taken from piped supplies showed the water to be thoroughly satisfactory in quality.

Forty-four samples of well water were taken of which seventeen were reported to be unfit for drinking. Subsequent action resulted in a further fifteen houses being provided with a main supply.

The list of houses without a piped supply is kept under constant review and the number will be further reduced when the Scheme promoted by the Council for a main extension in the Each End area of Woodnesborough is completed.

The present position is that 98% of all dwelling-houses in the district have a main supply of water, and the following table shows the circumstances in the different parishes:-

WATER SUPPLY

Parish:	No. of Dwelling Houses.	No. of houses with piped supply into houses.	No. of houses with main supply by standpipes.	No. of houses without piped supply.
ACOL	69	63	5	1
ASH	795	757	23	15
AYLESHAM	1004	1004	-	-
EASTRY	517	499	15	3
EYTHORNE	554	547	7	-
GOODNESTONE	151	150	-	1
MINSTER	723	718	2	3
MONKTON	135	124	8	3
NOWINGTON	212	201	5	6
NORTHBOURNE	274	270	-	4
PRESTON	206	180	19	7
RIPPLE	95	95	-	-
SARRE	41	37	4	-
SHOLDEN	164	160	-	4
STAPLE	152	141	2	9
STOURMOUTH	96	89	7	-
ST. NICHOLAS	214	204	3	7
SUTTON	227	218	5	4
TILMANSTONE	120	120	-	-
WINGHAM	438	411	22	5
WOODNESBORO'	328	305	15	8
WORTH	237	232	2	3
TOTAL	6752	6525	144	83

DRAINAGE

All new drainage alterations and additions are inspected and tested by water, ball and mirror. Every effort is made to encourage a high standard of work in accordance with the recommendations of the Building Research Station and the British Standard Code of Practice.

Two statutory notices were served upon owners of cottages under the provisions of Section 39, Public Health Act, 1936, requiring them to make satisfactory provision for drainage.

No. of visits in connection with drainage work	412
No. of water tests	112
No. of mirror tests	65
Existing houses provided with drainage systems	25
" houses, drainage altered or repaired	40
Cesspools constructed	26
Septic tanks constructed	18
Pail closets converted to water closets ...	40

INSPECTION AND SUPERVISION OF FOOD

All premises in which food is manufactured or prepared and retail food shops have been regularly visited and inspected with particular reference to the Food & Drugs Act, Meat Regulations and Clean Food Bye-laws. Three hundred and forty-nine visits were made for this purpose and minor infringements were remedied informally with the exception of one case in which formal action in accordance with Section 14 (3) Food & Drugs Act, 1938, was taken.

MILK

There are twenty-two milk distributors registered in the district, six having dairy premises and nine trading from adjoining districts. With the exception of a few gallons daily, all milk is delivered in bottles filled and sealed on registered premises and is either pasteurised or from tuberculin tested herds.

Almost all small dairymen now obtain their supplies already bottled from large dairies, and where these are outside the district, arrangements have been made with the authorities concerned to avoid excessive and unnecessary sampling. Details of samples taken are as follows:-

Tuberculin Tested:	26 samples.	3 samples failed the Methylene Blue Test.
Pasteurised:	26 samples.	(2 samples failed the Methylene Blue Test. (1 sample failed the Phosphatase Test.
Undesignated:	8 samples.	1 sample failed the Methylene Blue Test.

All milk sold in the district which has not been pasteurised is sampled for Biological examination. Twelve such samples were taken during the year and all were reported as negative.

The following licences were granted for the sale of designated milks:-

Tuberculin Tested:	(Dealers)	7
"	(Supplementary)	8
Pasteurised:	(Dealers)	8
"	(Supplementary)	8
Sterilised:	(Dealers)	3

ICE-CREAM

There are now eighty-seven premises in the district registered for the sale of ice-cream and in all of these the ice-cream is pre-wrapped. None is now manufactured in the district and the practice for supplies to be obtained from a small number of large manufacturers has continued. In view of this the number of samples has been reduced.

Results of Sampling.

<u>Number taken:</u>	<u>Grade I.</u>	<u>Grade II.</u>	<u>Grade III.</u>	<u>Grade IV.</u>
16	15	-	1	-

MEAT INSPECTION

Following the de-control of meat and livestock in July, three private slaughterhouses in the district were in regular use. Slaughtering takes place on Mondays, Tuesdays, Wednesdays and Saturdays and although the number of animals killed is not large, a considerable amount of time is involved in visiting the different slaughterhouses at varying times, frequently outside normal office hours.

Where slaughtering is carried out in private slaughterhouses it is seldom possible to carry out ante-mortem inspection nor to be present at the time of slaughter, but 100% post-mortem inspection has been conducted in accordance with the principles recommended by the Ministry of Food in Memo 3/Meat.

All meat and offal rejected at slaughterhouses as unfit for human consumption is stained green before leaving the premises, small quantities being destroyed and larger amounts sent to the glue works for processing.

Routine examination has been made of all beef carcasses and offal for evidence of cysticercus bovis but it has not been necessary to require cold storage treatment of infected meat.

Carcases Inspected and Condemned

	Total	Cattle (excluding) Cows	Cows	Calves	Sheep and Lambs	Pigs
Number killed (if known)	782	82	-	30	320	350
Number inspected ...	782	82	-	30	320	350
<u>All Diseases except Tuberculosis.</u>						
Whole carcasses condemned ...	-	-	-	-	-	-
Carcasses of which some part or organ was con- demned ...	19	12	-	-	2	5
Percentage of the No. inspected affected with disease other than tuberculosis ..	2.4%	14.6%	-	-	.6%	1.4%
<u>Tuberculosis only</u>						
Whole carcasses condemned ...	-	-	-	-	-	-
Carcasses of which some part or organ was condemned ...	29	11	-	-	-	18
Percentage of the No. inspected affected with tuberculosis	3.7%	13.4%	-	-	-	5.1%

MEAT INSPECTION

Total weight of carcasses, parts of carcasses
and offal rejected for all diseases

	Tons	Cwts.	qtrs.	lbs.	Total in lbs.
Carcasses ...	-	-	-	-	-
Parts of Carcasses ...	-	4	2	27	531
Offal ...	-	1	3	-	196
TOTAL	-	6	1	27	727

In addition to meat surrendered at slaughterhouses the following food was inspected at the request of traders and surrendered as being unfit for human consumption:-

Meat.

Pork ... 54 lbs.

Canned Food.

Meat ... 25 tins.
 Fish ... 10 tins.
 Fruit ... 78 "
 Milk ... 34 "
 Peas ... 23 "
 Miscellaneous ... 27 "

Other Foods

Cheese .. 7 lbs.
 Sugar .. 6 lbs.

DUSTBINS

For a number of years the subject of dustbins has been a cause of much controversy, mainly arising from the question whether a dustbin should be provided by the owner or the occupier of the premises concerned. Early in the year efforts were made to secure the provision of proper dustbins where required and as was anticipated, many difficulties were encountered. Objections raised on the grounds of cost by those with limited incomes could be appreciated, but it was surprising to find so many who could see nothing wrong in household refuse placed by the roadside for collection in open baths, buckets and cardboard cartons.

It is satisfactory to report, however, that by the end of the year over three hundred dustbins had been provided.

MOVEABLE DWELLINGS

One new caravan site was opened during the year and there are now seven camping sites which are licensed annually to accommodate three hundred and twenty-three moveable dwellings, including thirty-two residential caravans. All new licences restrict the type of dwellings to proper trailer caravans and tents and the few sub-standard dwellings remaining on two older sites are being steadily replaced. Each of the camps was well-conducted during the season and willing co-operation was shown by the site owners.

In addition to sites, nineteen licences were granted in respect of individual dwellings.

HOP PICKERS' CAMPS

Six Hop Pickers' camps in the district were occupied during the season and conditions were generally satisfactory. As in past years, each camp is visited at least two months before picking commences in order to allow ample time to carry out any structural work required. In spite of this the preparation of camps is invariably left until the pickers are about to arrive.

VERMINOUS PREMISES

Verminous conditions were found in thirteen houses and each was successfully disinfested with the use of a proprietary insecticide.

Fleas ...	...	...	...	...	two houses.
Cockroaches ...	...	...	...	...	eleven houses.

RODENT CONTROL

The generally low level of infestations that had existed in the district throughout the previous year continued until the end of the summer and it was thus possible to carry out the Council's statutory functions and provide a treatment service with one operative only. By the end of the year, however, there was evidence of a definite increase in the rat population and it appeared likely that a service to business premises could only be maintained by the employment once again of two operatives.

The withdrawal in June of the rat destruction service operated by the K.A.E.C. had little effect in this district as few of our farms had held contracts.

Warfarin has continued to be employed with excellent results but although many people are successfully treating their own premises with this poison, experience suggests that heavy infestations which frequently involve adjoining properties require the services of a trained operative.

Test baiting treatments of the sewers at Ash, Aylesham, Elvington and Minster was carried out during the year. Seventy-four manholes were baited and no 'takes' were recorded.

RODENT CONTROL

Summary of Work for the year 1954

<u>No. of properties inspected.</u>	<u>Local Authority</u>	<u>Dwelling Houses</u>	<u>Agric. Property.</u>	<u>Business Premises</u>	<u>Total</u>
(a) Following Complaint:	-	90	38	19	147
(b) In course of Survey:	4	44	371	16	435
 <u>No. of properties found to be infested.</u>					
<u>Major:</u>	3	11	38	17	69
<u>Minor:</u>	-	78	33	11	122
 <u>No. of properties treated by Council's Operators.</u>					
	4	116	79	28	227

FACTORIES ACTS, 1937 AND 1948.

There are sixty-eight premises in the district to which the Factories Acts apply, of which twelve only do not employ mechanical power. The majority are small local workshops such as bakehouses, garages and builders yards, the exceptions being a sausage factory, a large laundry and a clothing factory. The following tables give details of inspections carried out by the Sanitary Inspectors:-

1 - INSPECTIONS

Premises.	Number on Register	____ Number of ____		
		Inspections	Written Notices	Occupiers Prosecuted
i) Factories in which sections 1,2,3,4 & 6 are to be enforced by Local Authorities ...	12	3	-	-
ii) Factories not included in (i) in which Section 7 is enforced by the Local Authority ...	56	66	4	-
iii) Other Premises in which Section 7 is enforced by the Local Authority excluding out-workers' premises)	-	-	-	-
TOTAL	68	69	4	-

FACTORIES ACTS, 1937 AND 1948

2 - CASES IN WHICH DEFECTS WERE FOUND

Particulars.	Number of cases in which defects were found				Number of cases in which prosecutions were instituted
	Found	Remedied	Referred To H.M. By H.M. Inspctr. Inspctr.		
want of cleanliness	8	8	-	-	-
Overcrowding	-	-	-	-	-
Unreasonable temperature	-	-	-	-	-
Inadequate ventilation	-	-	-	-	-
Ineffective drainage of floors 	-	-	-	-	-
Sanitary Conveniences					
(a) Insufficient	2	1	-	-	-
(b) Unsuitable or defective	5	4	-	-	-
(c) Not separate for sexes	-	-	-	-	-
Other offences against the Act (not including offences relating to Cutwork) 	-	-	-	-	-
TOTAL	15	13	-	-	-

OTHER DUTIES

In addition to the statutory duties under the Sanitary Officers Orders, the Senior Sanitary Inspector is the Council's authorised officer under the Pet Animals Act, 1951, and the Heating Appliances (Fireguards) Regulations, 1953.

Other duties include administration in connection with the Cinematograph Acts and the licensing of premises for Music and Dancing. The New Cinema, Aylesham, is regularly inspected for the condition of sanitary accommodation and fire precautions.

In connection with Civil Defence, the Senior Sanitary Inspector is responsible for a number of functions in the Rural District including - Billeting, Emergency Feeding, Rest Centres and Burial of the Dead.

COMPLAINTS

During the year complaints have been received on the following matters:-

<u>Housing Defects</u>	...	...	...	...	...	27
<u>Drainage</u>	...	...	...	...	...	20
<u>Accumulations</u>	...	...	...	...	...	7
<u>Keeping of Animals</u>		...	...	...	...	8
<u>Vermin</u>	...	...	...	...	...	18
<u>Miscellaneous</u>	...	...	...	...	...	11
TOTAL	...	...	...	...	...	91

INSPECTIONS

A total of 4,368 inspections were made during the year as follows:-

In connection with the Housing Acts	...	...	...	...	...	902
In connection with the Public Health Acts	...	...	...	...	...	1748
Water Supply	...	...	...	...	...	122
Drainage	...	...	...	...	...	412
Dairies	...	...	...	...	...	29
Slaughterhouses	...	...	...	...	...	210
Butchers Shops	...	...	...	...	...	62
Other Food Shops	...	...	...	...	...	218
Restaurants	...	...	...	...	...	53
Bakehouses	...	...	...	...	...	63
Ice-cream Premises	...	...	...	...	...	24
Factories	...	...	...	...	...	69
Hop Pickers' Camps	...	...	...	...	...	49
Infectious Disease	...	...	...	...	...	57
Verminous Premises	...	...	...	...	...	41
Shops Acts	...	...	...	...	...	60
Moveable Dwellings	...	...	...	...	...	88
Knackers' Yard	...	...	...	...	...	31
Public Houses	...	...	...	...	...	26
Rats & Mice	...	...	...	...	...	104
TOTAL						4368

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